W5YI REPORT

Up to the minute news from the worlds of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

Dits & Bits

Fred Maia, W5YI, Editor, P.O. Box 10101, Dallas, TX 75207

★ *In This Issue* ★

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Texas Goes to 20-KHz 2-Meter Band Plan

Last week Texas joined a growing list of states that are adopting 20-KHz spacing in the amateur 2-meter ham band. Texas VHF Society members voted overwhelmingly (eight-to-one) to phase in the new band plan.

The League's VRAC (VHF Repeater Advisory Committee) had mandated that from the east coast to the Rocky Mountains that the band plan will be the "upright 15 KHz spacing band plan." From the Rocky Mountains to the West Coast the inverted 15-KHz (or "split-split") is used. Even though in conflict with the ARRL band plan, Texas repeaters were on the inverted 15-KHz plan since this plan is technically superior from an interference standpoint.

States surrounding Texas have decided to go to the "upright 15 KHz plan" - something that the Texas VHF Society and most repeater owners here are opposed to. When neighboring states (particularly during band openings) go to the ARRL mandated plan, Texas repeaters operating on inverted pairs will "lock up" - that is repeaters in neighboring states will key up Texas repeaters making both repeaters operationally useless. One repeater talks to the other... an unacceptable situation which will only get more severe as more states convert over to the "upright 15 KHz spacing plan."

Texas repeater owners voted to take a different approach to 2-meter spacing - that is to go to a 20-KHz band plan... "the lesser of two evils" says Chuck Adams, WB5WRR, of Fort Worth, and president of the Texas VHF Society. "No one was in favor of going from our present inverted 15 KHz plan to an upright 15 KHz plan such as used on the east coast. It would be a coordination nightmare and we do not want to degrade repeaters that are in operation in the state. We want to keep them as high quality as we can."

"We only had three choices... to stay the way we are, to go to the 'upright 15 KHz' plan or to go to the Pacific Northwest all upright 20-KHz band plan. If we didn't, neighboring repeaters would be locking up our inverted band plan. Recently Arizona, Minnesota and Michigan went to the 20-KHz plan. By government mandate, amateur repeaters in Old Mexico must go to the 20-KHz plan."

"Numerically you may end up with less repeater pairs on the 20-KHz plan, but in actual practice you get the same or a higher number of usable repeater channels in metropolitan areas," Adams said. "To cut down on interference, the inverted 15-KHz plan requires greater distance - 30 to 50 miles - separation from adjacent repeaters. Adjacent pairs are lost in metropolitan areas. You get an additional '5-KHz buffer zone' when you go from 15 to 20 KHz spacing. It makes all the difference in the world as far as repeater receiver performance goes."

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(59 2-Meter Repeater Pairs - Input/Output)

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144.67/5.27	146.16/.76	147.76/.16
144.69/5.29	146.18/.78	147.78/.18
144.71/5.31	146.20/.80	147.80/.20
144.73/5.33	146.22/.82	147.82/.22
144.75/5.35	146.24/.84	147.84/.24
144.77/5.37	146.26/.86	147.86/.26
144.79/5.39	146.28/.88	147.88/.28
144.81/5.41	146.30/.90	147.90/.30
144.83/5.43	146.32/.92	147.92/.32
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After determining court costs, the U.S. attorney will now draw up an order for the judge to sign. The federal judge will then assess the amount that Sykes will have to pay. It has been two years since the fine was levied. We tried to talk to Eugene Sykes about the trial, but he hung up on us.

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HAM RADIO OPERATOR EXAM QUESTIONS.... Booklet containing all of the FCC Amateur Radio Operator (Novice Through Extra Class) actual test questions plus FCC Study Guide (PR-Bulletins 1035, 1025A, 1035B, 1035C, 1035D) available for $3.00 postpaid from W5YI.

Louisiana Hamfest examination session that tested 115 applicants last August used Harry's examinations.

Lewis' proposal is somewhat similar to a draft petition that the QCWA recently circulated to its membership seeking to get the General Class code speed requirement lowered to 10 wpm. The purpose of this would be to permit Advanced Class amateurs (who have passed the 13 wpm Morse requirement) to be statutorily eligible to administer the entire General Class examination including the lower speed 10 wpm code test. The draft was dated November 20, 1984, and signed by Stuart Meyer, W2GHK, its president.

In my opinion, both the Lewis petition and the QCWA draft petition (which has yet to be filed) are based on the incorrect premise that Advanced Class amateurs can not administer the 13 wpm code test because they have not passed a higher code speed.

On February 8th, I filed a Petition for Partial Reconsideration of their January 25th opinion that CW examiners must have passed the next highest telegraphy element. I received a telephone call from Private Radio Bureau attorney, John Borkowski, last week saying that my filing had been accepted by the Commission and that it was being put out on Public Notice for people to comment on it. It will be published in the Federal Register and a 15 day comment period allowed.

It appears at this point that the Notice will appear about March 1st with comments allowed until March 15th. §1.49 of the Commission rules also require that those commenting on our Petition for Reconsideration also send a copy to us so that we can respond to them during the reply period which will expire ten days later.

If you strongly feel that Advanced Class amateurs should (or should not) be allowed to administer the entire General Class examination as clearly allowed by the legislation, please forward your comments to the FCC to the attention of John J. Borkowski, Special Services Division. (FCC, Private Radio Bureau, 2025 'M' Street NW, Washington, DC 20554) with a copy to us.

HAM FINED $2000 FOR RUNNING OVER 20KW

Jerry R. Dyke, WB5LEU of the Houston suburb of Spring, Texas, has been fined $2,000 by the FCC for overpower operation in the amateur 80-meter band. The Notice of Violation was issued for running excessive output power on January 15, 1985, between the hours of 9:01 and 9:30 p.m., CST on a frequency of 3895 kHz.

The station had been under FCC observation for several months. Dyke was monitored by the FCC's Houston field office. Engineer-in-Charge, Dan Cantrell said "the power level was measured in excess of 20,000 watts." The investigation was initiated by complaints from other amateurs.

Dyke was found operating a Collins S-Line which was driving a Drake L4B linear amplifier. The linear, in turn, was driving a 3XC10000T transmitting tube with a capacity of some 48,000 watts. The carrier power of the home brew amplifier was measured at 25 KW.

It appears that the high power station was built to retaliate against harrassment by other amateurs utilizing the same 3895 frequency. The FCC said they wanted to make it very clear that no one has exclusive pre-emptive rights to any amateur frequency "no matter how noble the service performed by a network. The spectrum belongs to everyone and amateurs must work together."

The Houston FCC office also has fined two unlicensed individuals, (Harris E. Maulden and Arthur A. Partain) of Pearland, Texas, $2,000 each for illegally using a phone patch on the 2-meter repeater input frequency of 144.79 MHz. last December and January. The fines have not yet been paid and will be routinely turned over to the U.S. attorney for collection if necessary.

The FCC's field offices recently have completed a study unrelated to the WD8LEU case to determine the communications range of a typical "at random" amateur station. Comparisons were made between usual transmitting power and with power output reduced by 50%. The sampling was done on a "non-enforcement basis," that is, no violations would be issued.

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increasing numbers," the FCC's Ray Kowalski, Chief of its Special Services Division told us. "Amateurs are turning to the Commission for resolution of repeater interference problems especially in the congested areas. The moratorium was an attempt to limit those problems while the Commission worked on a way to check the problems at its root cause... frequency coordination procedures."

The Commission rescinded the moratorium due to problems of implementation. Amateurs became more concerned with the moratorium than the reasons for it... the issues raised in PR Docket 85-22 on interference to and coordination of amateur repeaters.

"There were also implementation questions of hardship, overbroad applicability, coordination boundries that didn't coincide with specified metropolitan statistical areas and other problems. There were amateurs that had made substantial investments in sites and equipment to establish new repeaters for which they had coordination when the FCC said you can't do it... these and other inequities outweighed the benefit that the moratorium would have brought," Kowalski noted.

The Commission has said "We will lift the moratorium, but what we really want you to focus on is the issues in the proceeding so that we can eliminate the problems... the congestion complaints and the 'repeater wars' that the FCC has been faced with more and more in recent months."

I asked Kowalski about the FCC's position on different states going to different repeater band plans rather than adhere to a suggested system wider in scope. "This is something that is a real concern to me ever since the 20-kHz method began to catch on. The FCC hopes that amateurs will address the question of what happens when eventually a 20-KHz plan meets up with a 15-kHz plan in their comments on the repeater Docket 85-22."

Kowalsi said, "The Commission said in its Order 'We request substantive comment on all issues relevant to solving questions of interference and congestion by and to stations in repeater operation.' The Commission is opening the door as widely as it can be opened to the subject of repeaters for resolution of questions just like that. We see the two band plans as guaranteed to create an FCC problem at some point down the road if it isn't dealt with now. This is one of the things we want dealt with in this proceeding. How can these two plans coexist?."

(Action by the FCC by Order, Feb. 21, 1985.)

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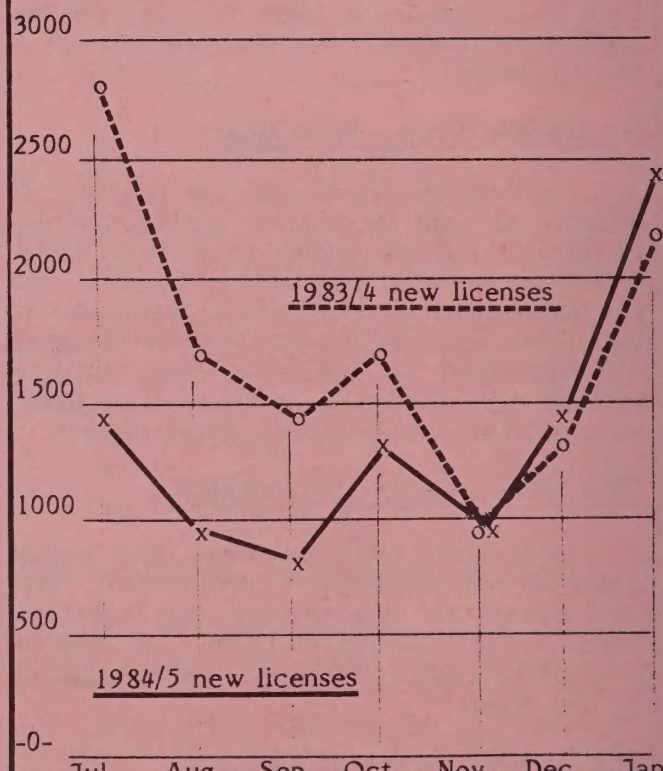
NEW AMATEUR RADIO LICENSES ISSUED....

I received a note from Jim Rafferty, N6RJ of Anaheim, Califonia's "Ham Radio Outlet." Using data supplied by the Callbook and the FCC, he tracks the number of new amateur radio licenses issued monthly versus last year by the FCC. He says "...looks like the VEC program is working!"

The following is a graph supplied by Jim showing that for the last two months (December 1984 and January 1985) more new ham tickets were issued than a year ago. Very welcome news.



("o" = July 1983 to January 1984 new licenses.
"x" = July 1984 to January 1985 new licenses.)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER

"I am a currently licensed Extra Class amateur radio operator and wish to be a Volunteer Examiner. I have never had my station or

VIDEO INNOVATIONS RAMPANT AT C.E.S.

Video Cassette Recorder growth has finally started to slow down. The growth rate in 1983 was 100% when industry sales of VCR's doubled. In 1984 the increase was 78%. Analysts expect a 30% rate this year. Still, 9.5 million units will be sold in 1985 and thirty percent of all U.S. households will have one.

A $99 VCR transmission gadget was introduced at the recent Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show that has the potential for ham radio interference problems if it catches on. A small device called the "VideoCaster" plugs into your VCR and broadcasts an over-the-air signal from a recorded tape or on-the-air program to every TV in your home! It can even feed a battery-powered portable set out on the patio! The low-power signal has a reported range of only 40 feet.

The big gun in video sales this year will be prerecorded and blank cassettes. Video software sales doubled in 1984. Thirty-three million units are predicted for 1985 along with 122 million blank tapes... a multi- billion dollar annual market!

But TV "players" (VCRs that don't record) and video/laserdiscs (that show video as well as play records) have bombed in the marketplace.

And watch for giant 35" color sets from Japan this fall. Mitsubishi's giant CRT weighs in at 110 pounds alone! It was also introduced at the CES and has 80% more viewing area than the present maximum (25") size. It is the largest TV screen that is not a projection unit and is only 22" deep. One disaadvantage is that is isn't as bright as curent 25" sets since extra reinforcing against implosion (which dulled the picture somewhat) was necessary.

Another video innovation to be on the lookout for is multi-channel capability... TV sets with two tuners so that you can watch two programs on the same television simultaneously! A smaller screen is super-imposed in the corner of a larger one so you can keep track of "that other football game"... or whatever. It appears that "windowing" has finally come to consumer TV.

APRICOTS MARKETED BY EX-APPLE FORCE

When I first heard about the Apricot Computer I figured that it was just another Apple clone... some off shore firm trying to take advantage of Apple's "fruity" name. There is already a Pineapple and an Orange computer... why not an Apricot. But no, this one is different. Much different.

First of all, the unit is not Apple compatible... instead being MS-DOS based - but not IBM compatible either. This is gutsy and called for closer investigation.

Apricot, Inc., is a brand new company in the process of opening an office in Fremont, California. It is 20% owned by Britain's giant Applied Computer Techniques (ACT.) ACT, a 20 year old firm, has a whopping 36% share of the UK's computer market. They put $20 million into into the Apricot push.

The other investors are largely European venture capitalists. Their new president, Robert Coolidge, has a background in high-tech start-ups including positions at 3M and Honeywell.

Apricot will offer hundreds of MS-DOS based applications programs that can be bundled with five different microcomputers and hard disks to form "turn-key" small business systems. Apricot hopes to position itself between IBM and Apple. Reportedly, the Apricot F1 (at $1695) micro offers better color and twice the memory of the MacIntosh.

To do that, Apricot has retained the 15 manufacturers' representative firms that were dumped when Apple decided to handle all of their marketing themselves. Starting slow (about 20,000 units will be sold here during 1985), ACT hopes to be at the $150 million sales level within three years.

The first sales push will be to Apple dealers with the reps getting twice the sales commissions they got from Apple with stock warrants thrown in to sweeten the pot. The rep firms have a seven year agreement.

A $6 million national advertising campaign is slated to begin this month.

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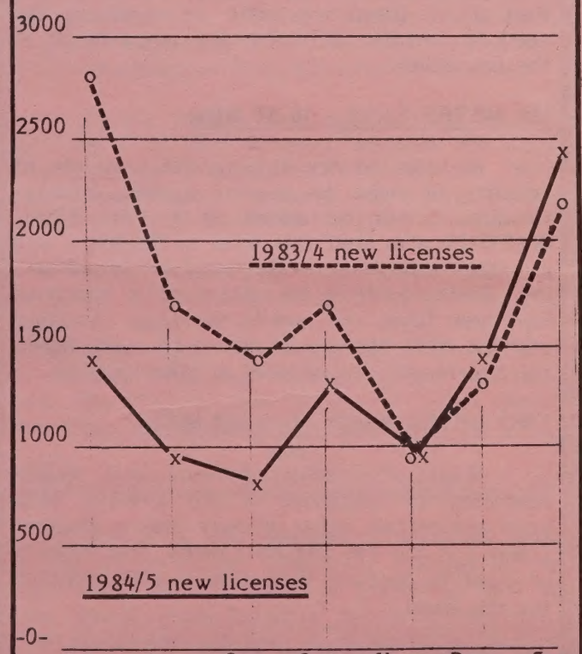

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VIDEO INNOVATIONS RAMPANT AT C.E.S.

Video Cassette Recorder growth has finally started to slow down. The growth rate in 1983 was 100% when industry sales of VCR's doubled. In 1984 the increase was 78%. Analysts expect a 30% rate this year. Still, 9.5 million units will be sold in 1985 and thirty percent of all U.S. households will have one.

A $99 VCR transmission gadget was introduced at the recent Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show that has the potential for ham radio interference problems if it catches on. A small device called the "VideoCaster" plugs into your VCR and broadcasts an over-the-air signal from a recorded tape or on-the-air program to every TV in your home! It can even feed a battery-powered portable set out on the patio! The low-power signal has a reported range of only 40 feet.

The big gun in video sales this year will be prerecorded and blank cassettes. Video software sales doubled in 1984. Thirty-three million units are predicted for 1985 along with 122 million blank tapes... a multi- billion dollar annual market!

But TV "players" (VCRs that don't record) and video/laserdiscs (that show video as well as play records) have bombed in the marketplace.

And watch for giant 35" color sets from Japan this fall. Mitsubishi's giant CRT weighs in at 110 pounds alone! It was also introduced at the CES and has 80% more viewing area than the present maximum (25") size. It is the largest TV screen that is not a projection unit and is only 22" deep. One disaadvantage is that is isn't as bright as curent 25" sets since extra reinforcing against implosion (which dulled the picture somewhat) was necessary.

Another video innovation to be on the lookout for is multi-channel capability... TV sets with two tuners so that you can watch two programs on the same television simultaneously! A smaller screen is super-imposed in the corner of a larger one so you can keep track of "that other football game"... or whatever. It appears that "windowing" has finally come to consumer TV.

APRICOTS MARKETED BY EX-APPLE FORCE

When I first heard about the Apricot Computer I figured that it was just another Apple clone... some off shore firm trying to take advantage of Apple's "fruity" name. There is already a Pineapple and an Orange computer... why not an Apricot. But no, this one is different. Much different.

First of all, the unit is not Apple compatible... instead being MS-DOS based - but not IBM compatible either. This is gutsy and called for closer investigation.

Apricot, Inc., is a brand new company in the process of opening an office in Fremont, California. It is 20% owned by Britain's giant Applied Computer Techniques (ACT.) ACT, a 20 year old firm, has a whopping 36% share of the UK's computer market. They put $20 million into into the Apricot push.

The other investors are largely European venture capitalists. Their new president, Robert Coolidge, has a background in high-tech start-ups including positions at 3M and Honeywell.

Apricot will offer hundreds of MS-DOS based applications programs that can be bundled with five different microcomputers and hard disks to form "turn-key" small business systems. Apricot hopes to position itself between IBM and Apple. Reportedly, the Apricot F1 (at $1695) micro offers better color and twice the memory of the MacIntosh.

To do that, Apricot has retained the 15 manufacturers' representative firms that were dumped when Apple decided to handle all of their marketing themselves. Starting slow (about 20,000 units will be sold here during 1985), ACT hopes to be at the $150 million sales level within three years.

The first sales push will be to Apple dealers with the reps getting twice the sales commissions they got from Apple with stock warrants thrown in to sweeten the pot. The rep firms have a seven year agreement.

A $6 million national advertising campaign is slated to begin this month.

MICROCOMPUTER MARKETING GETS TOUGH

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Both **Franklin and Osborne Computer** have recently emerged from operations under Chapter 11 protection. Franklin will continue in the Apple II compatible business. They had to pay a $2.5 million patent infringement settlement to Apple which got them into financial trouble. Franklin also has a new personal computer dubbed the Ace 2000.

Osborne has raised capital by selling stock at $1.00 a share in California and overseas. They are marketing a MS-DOS compatible Vixon portable and the Osborne "1" and new "3". Nearly all of Osborne's business is done overseas now. In the U.S. they will concentrate on the "value added market" (bundled hardware with applications packages) rather than selling through dealers.

At one point, **Osborne had over a thousand dealers** - mostly retailers - who won't forget that they were left holding the bag when Osborne filed for bankruptsy. Somehow, the firm feels that they will return to profitability this year. They only have 35 employees - down from over 1,000 in 1983.

Flamboyant Adam Osborne left the company over a year ago. He is now in the low cost software publishing business. He owns "Paperback Software" which markets $29 to $69 programs to bookstores. Osborne financed the venture by selling 5 million shares of stock at 10 cents a share just a month ago!

Had it been called the "Cabbage Patch Computer" it might have sold. As the Coleco "Adam", however, it was a bomb! A $100 million bomb. Waiting until after Christmas, the toy company now has "dumped" all of the remaining ill-fated machines into the "odd lot" market where they will be sold for about $200 instead of the intended $699. Coleco thought they had something when they developed a computer with an attached letter quality printer. Suffering from a design problem, the machine really never worked. They even tried giving away a Cabbage Patch Kid doll with every "Adam" computer. That sold a few. Coleco's big problem now is trying to pacify chain stores who were hung with the product. They need the mass merchandisers to sell their toys. This now makes four well known national firms have gone out of the personal computer business in the last year and a half. (The others are Texas Instruments, Mattel and Timex.)

The big Christmas computer sellers this year were the Apple II and (believe it or not) the IBM PC-jr. Aggressive IBM revamped the "Chiclet" keyboard, dropped the price and just about guaranteed junior's sales. Commodore (last year's winner) was down in sales and the firm has now lowered the "64's" price about 25%. You can pick up one now in the $150 class.

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The Commission rescinded the moratorium due to problems of implementation. Amateurs became more concerned with the moratorium than the reasons for it... the issues raised in PR Docket 85-22 on interference to and coordination of amateur repeaters.

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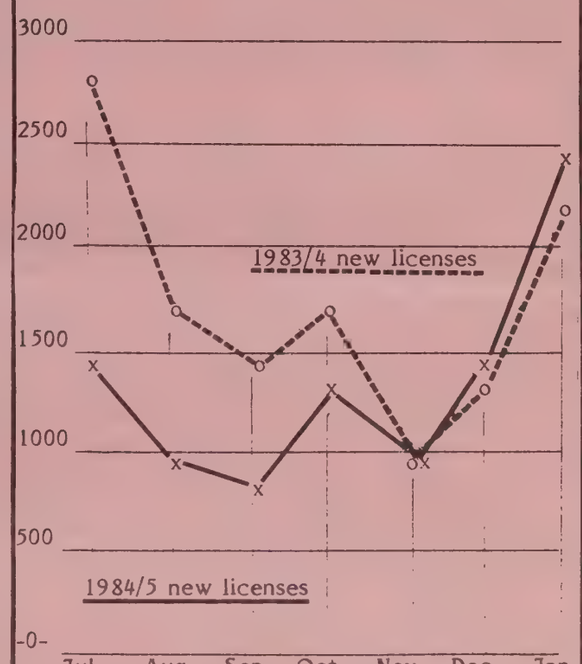

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ON ADMINISTERING THE 13 WPM CODE TEST

There is growing interest to allow volunteer amateurs holding Advanced Class licenses to administer the entire General Class examination. At present Advanced Class level volunteer examiners can administer the Element 3 written test required of applicants for the Technician and General Class tickets, but not the General Class Morse Code test.

This is because the FCC has interpreted the enabling legislation (Public Law 97-259) authorized by Congress and signed into law by President Reagan on September 13, 1982, to require VE's to have successfully passed higher class examination elements than they are administering.

Actually this is not the case since the legislation clearly permits amateurs holding a higher class license to administer lower class examinations. There is nothing in the law that indicates volunteer examiners must have passed higher code speeds than those they are administering. The sentence that applies in the Public Law authorizing volunteer examination states...

> (Quote) "The Commission, for purposes of administering any examination for an amateur station operator license, may accept and employ the voluntary and uncompensated services of any individual who holds an amateur station operator license of a higher class than the class license for which the examination is being conducted." (End Quote)

This was brought up at the Annual ARRL Board Meeting held January 24 and 25 by Mary E. Lewis, W7QGP, (Northwestern Division Director.) She made a motion (seconded by the Great Lakes Division Director, George Wilson, W4OYI) that the League seek "either an amended rule interpretation or rule change, to permit Advanced Class Volunteer Examiners to administer both written and Morse code elements of the General Class license examinations, in acordance with the clear wording of Public Law 97-259." Tod Olson, KØTO (Dakota Division Director) suggested that the issue be "tabled" and this is what happened. Mary Lewis and George Wilson said that they wanted to go on record as opposing to putting off voting on the matter.

Coincidently, on January 25th in ruling on another petition, the FCC included in an Order a statement that said "We construe the statute (enabling legislation) to require that an examiner administering a telegraphy element must have passed the next highest telegraphy element, if one exists."

The League prohibits its organization and staff from making FCC filings on its own. The Northwestern Director's OM is Harry Lewis, W7JWJ, a very prominent amateur on the west coast and perhaps the world's fastest CW copier. He can copy 70+ wpm. Harry has been responsible for bringing thousands of new amateurs into the hobby. He favors widespread, readily available amateur testing.

Three days after the ARRL Annual Board Meeting "tabled" the Mary Lewis proposal to pursue Advanced Class VE's being allowed to administer the General Class code, Harry Lewis, filed a petition (now assigned RM-4896 by the FCC) to make the Technician, General and Advanced Class code requirements different. (Technician class speed would go to 7 wpm, General 13 wpm and Advanced 15 wpm.)

The purpose of this would be to allow Advanced Class licensees to administer the General Class code test. This would pave the way for Advanced Class VE's administering both the Technician and entire General Class examinations. Harry said in his petition that his proposal "would release a potential pool of over 96,000 Advanced Class license holders to assist in administering the General Class amateur license." The General Class is, by far, the most popular license examination administered by volunteer examiners.

An interesting sidenote is that Harry is one of our program VE's and it was he that wrote the examination question answers (before the ARRL had them available) for our early VE program sessions. Harry also headed up the very first W5YI VE teams and held examination sessions in Montana and Washington last July. Harry also made his examinations available to other W5YI program sessions. The Shreveport

Louisiana Hamfest examination session that tested 115 applicants last August used Harry's examinations.

Lewis' proposal is somewhat similar to a draft petition that the QCWA recently circulated to its membership seeking to get the General Class code speed requirement lowered to 10 wpm. The purpose of this would be to permit Advanced Class amateurs (who have passed the 13 wpm Morse requirement) to be statutorily eligible to administer the entire General Class examination including the lower speed 10 wpm code test. The draft was dated November 20, 1984, and signed by Stuart Meyer, W2GHK, its president.

In my opinion, both the Lewis petition and the QCWA draft petition (which has yet to be filed) are based on the incorrect premise that Advanced Class amateurs can not administer the 13 wpm code test because they have not passed a higher code speed.

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ON ADMINISTERING THE 13 WPM CODE TEST

There is growing interest to allow volunteer amateurs holding Advanced Class licenses to administer the entire General Class examination. At present Advanced Class level volunteer examiners can administer the Element 3 written test required of applicants for the Technician and General Class tickets, but not the General Class Morse Code test.

This is because the FCC has interpreted the enabling legislation (Public Law 97-259) authorized by Congress and signed into law by President Reagan on September 13, 1982, to require VE's to have successfully passed higher class examination elements than they are administering.

Actually this is not the case since the legislation clearly permits amateurs holding a higher class license to administer lower class examinations. There is nothing in the law that indicates volunteer examiners must have passed higher code speeds than those they are administering. The sentence that applies in the Public Law authorizing volunteer examination states...

> (Quote) "The Commission, for purposes of administering any examination for an amateur station operator license, may accept and employ the voluntary and uncompensated services of any individual who holds an amateur station operator license of a higher class than the class license for which the examination is being conducted." (End Quote)

This was brought up at the Annual ARRL Board Meeting held January 24 and 25 by Mary E. Lewis, W7QGP, (Northwestern Division Director.) She made a motion (seconded by the Great Lakes Division Director, George Wilson, W4OYI) that the League seek "either an amended rule interpretation or rule change, to permit Advanced Class Volunteer Examiners to administer both written and Morse code elements of the General Class license examinations, in acordance with the clear wording of Public Law 97-259." Tod Olson, KØTO (Dakota Division Director) suggested that the issue be "tabled" and this is what happened. Mary Lewis and George Wilson said that they wanted to go on record as opposing to putting off voting on the matter.

Coincidently, on January 25th in ruling on another petition, the FCC included in an Order a statement that said "We construe the statute (enabling legislation) to require that an examiner administering a telegraphy element must have passed the next highest telegraphy element, if one exists."

The League prohibits its organization and staff from making FCC filings on its own. The Northwestern Director's OM is Harry Lewis, W7JWJ, a very prominent amateur on the west coast and perhaps the world's fastest CW copier. He can copy 70+ wpm. Harry has been responsible for bringing thousands of new amateurs into the hobby. He favors widespread, readily available amateur testing.

Three days after the ARRL Annual Board Meeting "tabled" the Mary Lewis proposal to pursue Advanced Class VE's being allowed to administer the General Class code, Harry Lewis, filed a petition (now assigned RM-4896 by the FCC) to make the Technician, General and Advanced Class code requirements different. (Technician class speed would go to 7 wpm, General 13 wpm and Advanced 15 wpm.)

The purpose of this would be to allow Advanced Class licensees to administer the General Class code test. This would pave the way for Advanced Class VE's administering both the Technician and entire General Class examinations. Harry said in his petition that his proposal "would release a potential pool of over 96,000 Advanced Class license holders to assist in administering the General Class amateur license." The General Class is, by far, the most popular license examination administered by volunteer examiners.

An interesting sidenote is that Harry is one of our program VE's and it was he that wrote the examination question answers (before the ARRL had them available) for our early VE program sessions. Harry also headed up the very first W5YI VE teams and held examination sessions in Montana and Washington last July. Harry also made his examinations available to other W5YI program sessions. The Shreveport

The Texas VHF Society - and their five regional coordinators - are now looking at a phase in schedule. They will also be looking at relocating some 'co-channel' repeaters that were erroneously coordinated too close together. "No existing repeater will end up without a repeater pair. The even frequency (i.e. 22/82) repeaters will stay where they are. Odd frequency repeaters (i.e. 13/73) will move down 10 KHz. The 'split-spits' (sandwiched in between) will be worked in as other channels open up. It will take five years to implement the program."

The new 20-KHz Band Plan adopted in Texas looks like this...

Repeater:	Band Segments:
Inputs:	144.51-144.89, 146.00-146.38 147.60-147.98 MHz
Outputs:	145.11-145.49, 146.60-146.98 147.00-147.38

(59 2-Meter Repeater Pairs - Input/Output)

144.51/5.11	146.00/.60(*)	147.60/.00
144.53/5.13	146.02/.62	147.62/.02
144.55/5.15	146.04/.64	147.64/.04
144.57/5.17	146.06/.66	147.66/.06
144.59/5.19	146.08/.68	147.68/.08
144.61/5.21	146.10/.70	147.70/.10
144.63/5.23	146.12/.72	147.72/.12
144.65/5.25	146.14/.74	147.74/.14
144.67/5.27	146.16/.76	147.76/.16
144.69/5.29	146.18/.78	147.78/.18
144.71/5.31	146.20/.80	147.80/.20
144.73/5.33	146.22/.82	147.82/.22
144.75/5.35	146.24/.84	147.84/.24
144.77/5.37	146.26/.86	147.86/.26
144.79/5.39	146.28/.88	147.88/.28
144.81/5.41	146.30/.90	147.90/.30
144.83/5.43	146.32/.92	147.92/.32
144.85/5.45	146.34/.94	147.94/.34
144.87/5.47	146.36/.96	147.96/.36
144.89/5.49	146.38/.98	147.98/.38

(* = this is not a usable repeater pair.)

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HAM STANDS TRIAL ON FINE NONPAYMENT

Back in early 1983, Eugene B. Sykes, W4OO, of West Palm Beach, Florida, was fined $550 for overpower operation in the 40-meter Novice band. Charging deliberate second harmonic interference, a neighboring amateur, Henry Luhrman, W4PZV, said that when he moved his 20-meter phone frequency, an intentional corresponding change was made by Sykes in the Novice CW segment where power is restricted to 250 watts. The FCC said that field strength readings indicated that Sykes was running in excess of 540 watts.

The FCC never addressed the alleged hard-to-prove intentional interference charge instead opting to move on the concrete Novice band overpower violation. Sykes never paid the $550 fine and the matter was turned over to the U.S. attorney for collection on February 2, 1984.

Sykes countersued the FCC last May charging that the FCC "conspired to harrass, harm and annoy" him and accepted complaints that they knew to be "false or without foundation." He eventually dropped the suit but asked for a jury trial.

Gene Sykes got his wish a couple of weeks ago. Judge Lenore Nesbitt of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida presided at Syke's jury trial on February 14 and 15, 1985. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan Goodman and assisted by Carol Fox Foelak, Chief of the FCC's Washington, D.C. Compliance Branch.

Syke's defense was that the FCC made a mistake. FCC field personnel detailed the steps that they went through to determine the overpower operation. The jury, not buying Syke's version, ruled in favor of the government.

After determining court costs, the U.S. attorney will now draw up an order for the judge to sign. The federal judge will then assess the amount that Sykes will have to pay. It has been two years since the fine was levied. We tried to talk to Eugene Sykes about the trial, but he hung up on us.

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PART 97 RULES TO CONFORM TO WARC-79

The FCC has released a document proposing to implement additional changes in the ham bands as authorized by the Final Acts of the World Administrative Radio Conference. The Commission already is considering (Docket 84-960 dated October 17, 1984) adding amateur operations on a primary basis in the 10.100 to

MANY THANKS TO THOSE OF YOU who submitted or otherwise contributed editorial content used in this issue. Your news assistance is solicited and greatly appreciated. Tel: (817) 461-6443 has a vox-operated recorder on it 24 hours with no cut off timing.

THE W5YI REPORT
P.O. Box #10101
Dallas, TX 75207

HAM RADIO OPERATOR EXAM QUESTIONS... Booklet containing all of the FCC Amateur Radio Operator (Novice Through Extra Class) actual test questions plus FCC Study Guide (PR-Bulletins 1035, 1025A, 1035B, 1035C, 1035D) available for $3.00 postpaid from W5YI.

Louisiana Hamfest examination session that tested 115 applicants last August used Harry's examinations.

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VOLUNTEER EXAMINER PROGRAM UPDATE

The FCC has issued a new Volunteer Examiner Coordinator list and there are four new VECs on it. The newcomers to the list are the:

Adirondack Amateur Radio Club (P.O. Box #953, Glen Falls, NY 12801)- Region 2

Mountain Amateur Radio Club (P.O. Box #234, Cumberland, MD 21502 - Tel: 304-289-3576) - Region 3

Dunedin Amateur Radio Association (P.O. Box #1851, Dunedin, FL 33515) - Region 4

The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club, Inc. (Pin Oak Court, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051) - Region 9

There are 52 VECs according to the FCC list, but actually only 25 since ARRL and W5YI each count as 13 regional programs and the Sunnyvale and Mid-South programs each cover 2.

The W5YI-VEC program administered examinations to 210 amateurs during January with 122 - or 58.1% - upgrading. (306 examination elements were administered with 194 - or 63.4% - successfully passed.)

The article that we had in the March 1985 issue of "73 Magazine" (Page 28-32) has generated dozens of new VE's and we are presently in the process of accrediting them so that they too can administer ham exams.

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An interesting tid-bit! The FCC has shut down Alaska's aerial wolf hunt by ordering that state game officials cease their use of radio telemetry to track and kill wolf packs by helicopter. The radio-collared wolves are saved from eradication - leaving them to eventually lead hunters to another pack. The FCC said that this was an improper use of an FCC license granted for "biological research."

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RADIO MARTI STILL NOT ON THE AIR

"Radio Marti" - the Voice-of-America U.S./Cuba information service named for Jose Marti, the patriot who won Cuban independence from Spain, has yet to appear on the airwaves. It was supposed to start broadcasting January 28th at 1180 on the AM broadcast dial from Marathon, Florida. U.S. broadcasters fear when Marti does appear with its censored in Cuba news, that it will further antagonize Castro who will respond with high power interference and programming of his own. It could disrupt AM programming thoughout North America.

There are serious internal and personnel management problems within the "Radio Marti" organization. Paul Drew, director, of the operation has resigned - the second director to do so. Reportedly, the Cuban-American staff wants a hard-line anti-Castro on-the-air position while VOA standards insist on ojectivity and balance. Radio Marti is Reagan's answer to what it says is the Cuban government's monopoly on news in Cuba.

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W2NSD/1 REVEALS SECRET OF HIS SUCCESS

There is an story in the recent issue of "Success" magazine (page 56) that tells about "multifaceted entrepreneur" Wayne Green of Peterborough, N.H. Green, of course, is W2NSD/1 of "73 Magazine" fame and dozens of others. He sold his publishing empire for $60 million, but started right up again with WGE, Inc. (Wayne Green Enterprises.)

The article goes on to tell about Green's computer publications, software-writing firms plus "a distribution company, a printing company, and a publishing school" that I didn't know he had. "Green scans no fewer than 300 magazines a month from Newsweek to UFO Magazine, ripping out new ideas."

In discussing innovation, Green is quoted in the article... "Several years ago I read something about creativity that works for me. When you take a shower, the flow of water knocks electrons off your skin and generates a negative-ion atmosphere. Those negative-ions are supposed to generate a creative frame of mind. I don't understand the science, but it certainly works for me. When I get into the shower, the light goes on in my head."

Now we all how Green developed the $60 million empire that he sold to CW/Communications, Inc. two years ago.

That's all for this issue. See you in two weeks. I'm heading to the shower. de W5YI